

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Seven : Taking the Lord's Yoke (the Father's Will) upon Us and Learning from Him to
Find Rest for Our Souls

I. Overview:

We must learn from the Lord and take the Lord's yoke upon us. Knowing that toil is always a burden; the Lord calls us to come to rest, and there will be perfect peace and full satisfaction. The Lord lived such a life, being constrained by the will of the Father; He was meek and lowly in heart, being fully satisfied with the Father's will. If we live by the resurrection life, we will find the Lord's yoke being easy, and His burden (the work to carry out the Father's will) being light, and we will also find rest for our souls. It is a divine principle that God does not want us to work until we have enjoyed in Him. After a full enjoyment with Him and of Him, we may work together with Him. To rest with the Lord, to take the Lord's yoke, not to violate the divine principles, and resting first with working later all of that is a holy thing. We must always serve with a burden from the Lord and learn to receive burdens and release burdens through prayer in our intimate fellowship with the Lord; without burden, there is no ministry of the word, no prophesying.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the way to rest in Matthew 11:29 and 30.

The Lord's yoke is to take the will of the Father. It is not to be regulated or controlled by any obligations of the law or religion, nor to be enslaved by any work, but to be constrained by the will of the Father. The Lord lived such a life, caring for nothing but the will of His Father, so He asks us to learn from Him. God's will is our yoke. In the Lord's recovery we all have been yoked. The Lord's yoke is pleasant and His burden is light.

B. Explain if we take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, we shall find rest for our souls. He is meek and lowly in heart. In all the opposition the Lord was meek, and in all the rejection He was lowly in heart. He submitted Himself fully to the will of His Father, not wanting to do anything for Himself nor expecting to gain something for Himself. Hence, regardless of the situation, He had rest in His heart. He was fully satisfied with His Father's will. If we take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, we shall find rest for our souls.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the first God-man being the Head of the Body, the prototype, and the model. He came as one grain of wheat to produce many grains. Peter says that Christ is a model to the believers. The Greek word for model means literally a writing copy, an underwriting. We become the reproduction of Christ as the original writing copy. Christ is the prototype to produce a mass production and the model to produce the many duplications. Christ was the first God-man, and we are the many God-men.

B. Expound that the Lord was meek, and He was also lowly.

The Lord was meek, meaning that He did not resist His opponents. He was also lowly, meaning that He humbled Himself among men in His heart. The Lord's believers answer His call in their heart and come to Him bodily. To come to Him bodily means that our entire being has to come to Him. This is why Paul charges us in Romans 12:1 to present our bodies to the Lord as a living sacrifice.

Day 3 —

A. How to keep the Sabbath in Exodus 31:12 regarding the building up of God's dwelling place with a repetition of the commandment?

In Exodus 31:12-17, after a long record concerning the building up of God's dwelling place, there is a repetition of the commandment to keep the Sabbath. The fact indicated that the Lord was telling these builders, these workers, to learn how to rest with Him. They should not work and forget about resting with the Lord. Therefore, the Lord reminded them that as they worked for Him, they should learn how to rest with Him.

B. Expound the Sabbath being the seventh day to God, but to man it is the first day.

According to the book of Genesis, to God the Sabbath is the seventh day, but to man it is the first day. After all things were made, man was created on the sixth day. This means that as soon as man came forth from the creating hand of God, his first day, which was God's seventh day, was about to begin. Thus, what was the seventh day to God was the first day to man.

Day 4 —

A. What is the meaning of that God reviewed the tabernacle, selected the builders, and then spoke of the Sabbath? It seems as if God were saying that I will be your strength to work and your energy to labor. You must do the work of building My dwelling place with Me, by Me, and in oneness with Me. If you try to do a good work for Me by yourselves, leaving Me aside, that would be an insult to Me, for that is a sign of the devil's people. You are My people, and you should bear a sign that you need Me to be your enjoyment, strength, and energy.

B. Expound what lessons we all need to learn regarding the Sabbath.

The Sabbath means that before we work for God, we need to enjoy God and be filled with Him. If we have enjoyed God and if we have been filled with God, then we are ready to work for Him. Such work will not be by ourselves; it will be by God. Consider Peter's situation on the day of Pentecost. When Peter stood up to preach the gospel, he did not preach by himself. He preached the gospel by the infilling God.

Day 5 —

A. How do we exercise bearing the word of God with a burden?

When people come to a meeting, there may be the need to release the word. We must seek the Lord concerning what we speak and concerning the issue of our speaking. If some are not yet saved, we should receive a burden to bear their souls by the Lord's grace in order to sow the seed of salvation into them when we release the word. This is the ministry of the word with a burden.

B. Explain ministering the word of God, we should concern if we have God's speaking.

When we minister the word of God, our concern should be whether we have God's speaking, not the topic of our speaking. In order to have God's speaking, the one who ministers the word must have a burden. One who ministers the word should bear people's condition before God. He bears the responsibility of knowing their needs. He needs to sense their condition and know what God wants to speak.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship with in giving a message out of a burden, our self must be dealt with.

A brother may give a message merely out of obligation, because it is his turn to speak. However, giving messages is not a matter of obligation but of burden. If we have a burden, we will see that our messages are effective. Our messages should "trouble" people so that they have no peace, and they are stirred up to love and serve the Lord. However, in giving a message out of a burden, our self must be dealt with.

B. Why is that everyone who serves the Lord must receive a burden and have a burden?

Everyone who serves the Lord must receive a burden and have a burden. If the sisters fellowship together and visit people simply because it is time to do so, they are doing so out of obligation. The sisters should seek to know the result of their fellowship and visitation. They should know the condition of the sisters under their care. We must receive a genuine burden.

III. Conclusion:

If we would like to enjoy God and work with Him, we need to:

1) Enter into God's presence; 2) Rejoice in the Lord; 3) Enjoy the word of the Lord; 4) Be a faithful and prudent slave; 5) Keep the joy in our heart. In addition, the difficulty we have in serving is that we are moving towards a sense of responsibility and lack of spiritual burdens; our prayers are burdenless and lacking desperately. When we preach the gospel, people are saved and thanks to the Lord; if no one is saved, they can live in peace. Visiting the saints also was not energized enough. To see a genuine service is not a matter of obligation, but a matter of burden. The burden is always greater than the responsibility. Learn to have fellowship with the Lord, to receive the burden and release the burden from the Lord through a prayer.